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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week Ending November 3, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Citrus Fruits: Official releases relative to the tropical storm damage indicate that the seedless grapefruit crop in Florida has been reduced 48 percent while other varieties have been reduced 40 percent. Total grapefruit production in Florida for the 1944-45 season is now indicated to be 43 percent below the October 1 estimate of 36,000,000 boxes, a reduction of 15,500,000 boxes. A salvage of approximately 600,000 boxes of blownoff and fallen grapefruit is expected. Estimated production of grapefruit in Arizona is placed at 3,700,000 boxes, and for desert valley grapefruit from California at 1,316,000 boxes, compared with 1943-44 estimates of 4,080,000 boxes and 1,239,000 boxes respectively.

In the Pacific Northwest, arrivals of Grapefruit from California, Arizona and Texas were quoted at $4.00 to $4.90 for all sizes. On the California markets wholesale prices were quoted this week at ceiling for all sizes. It is expected that increased supplies of California grapefruit will appear on the markets during the month.

A reduction, by 10,000,000 boxes, in the Florida orange crop for the 1944-45 season is now expected as a result of the storm. Total estimates for Florida as of October 1 were 56,700,000 boxes, the Valencia crop in that state is expected to be reduced by only 14 percent.

Top prices on the western wholesale market for oranges during the week were quoted at $5.00 to $5.85, on all sizes of fancy packed and wrapped stock. Some small choice to medium stock was as low as $3.00 per box.

Daily shipments of oranges during the past week averaged 148 cars, compared with 183 cars for the previous week. For grapefruit the daily average during the past week was 31 cars, compared with 59 cars for the previous week.

Apples: Carlot shipments of apples within the U. S. totaled 20,766 cars at the close of this week, compared with 14,913 cars for the same period in 1943, a 39.9 percent increase over the 1943 shipments. The daily average for the last 7 days was 368 cars.

Delicious and Jonathan apples continue to be the most numerous on the wholesale market, with Winesap, Ortley, Rome Beautys, Newtown Pippins, Winter Bananas, Winesaps and Spitzinbergs also being quoted. Wholesale prices on Fancy and combination-type Fancyand extra Fancy, run from $2.50 to $3.75 per box. C grade stock was quoted mostly at $2.00 to $2.50 per box.

Grapes: Daily carlot movement of grapes within the U. S. during the last week has reduced to 165 cars, a 62 percent decrease from the daily shipments for the previous week. Total carlot movement for the season to date totals 20,960, a 13 percent increase above the total shipments for last year to the same date.

On the wholesale markets in the Western states, grape varieties mostly found are Emperors, Tokays, Ribiers and a few Malagas.

Wholesale prices mostly quoted at the close of the week were $3.25 to $3.75 for 28 lb. lugs, with some quotations as low as $2.90 and a few as high as $4.25. F.o.b. shipping point sales were mostly $3.25 to $3.50 for U.S. No.1 Emperors.

Pears: The total carlot movement of pears for this season to date is 13,360 cars, with an average daily movement for the past week of 65 cars, 65 percent of the daily movement for the week previous.

Bartlett pears in the North West were reported at the close of the week at $3.25 t. $3.75 per box and D'Anjous at $4.50 to $4.75 per box. In the South West, Bartlett closed the week at 9 to 9 3/4 cents per lb. and, on the wholesale markets D'Anjous were quoted mostly at 6 cents. Packed and wrapped Lake County Comice and D'Anjous were quoted at $4.25 to $4.73 cents per box.

Potatoes: The carlot movement of potatoes from Idaho to date for this season totals 11,546 cars, compared with 11,516 cars to the same date in 1943. The total carlot movement for the U.S. to date is 131,833 cars compared with 145,628 cars to the same date in 1943.

At Idaho Falls, U.S. No.1 Size A potatoes remained at ceiling on f.o.b. shipping point sales. On the wholesale markets in the West, U.S. No.1 potatoes were quoted mostly on a range of $3.00 to $3.65 per hundred lbs. Some long Whites were quoted as low as $2.90 per hundred lbs at the close of the week.

Sweet potatoes: On November 15, the WFA Loan Program on Sweet Potatoes will be put into effect as was announced March 4, 1944. The State and County Agricultural Conservation committees will handle all details of field operations, and all interested persons should apply to those committees for information or loans.

October 1, 1944 crop estimates indicate the sweet potato crop at 73,465,000 bushels, approximately 1,100,000 bushels more than the total production for 1943, and 9 percent greater than the 1933-42 average. In California, the 1944 indicated crop is 1,440,000 bushels, which is approximately 60,000 bushels less than the 1943 total production, and 13 percent greater than the 1933-42 average. Californi sweet potatoes, on the Western wholesale markets were quoted mostly at 6 cents per pound at the close of the week.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Supplies of butter in all the terminal markets continued short during this past week. Demand was very much above available supplies, and indications during the week were that distribution of available supplies was unequal to the extent that markets near to the points of production were receiving more butter per capita than the metropolitan areas.

Recent rains in the Pacific Coast areas, accompanied by the warm weather, will no doubt increase the milk flow.

Eggs: Due to declining receipts of large sized eggs and a still comparatively advantageous differential between Grade A Large eggs and Grade A Small eggs, Grade A smalls advanced in popularity as well as in price in all of the western wholesale markets. In San Francisco the advance was 5 cents on Friday, in Portlan up to 3 cents per dozen and in Los Angeles 1 cent per dozen. The range in top prices on Grade A small eggs in the four Pacific Coast markets was 34 cents to 38½ cents per dozen with San Francisco at the top of the range and Seattle at the bottom. Top prices on Grade A large eggs were 56 cents to 58 cents per dozen,

with Seattle still on the low side and Los Angeles and Portland at the top of the range.

Poultry: Supplies of live poultry were reaching the markets in light volume and in most of the markets were below demand. Attractive egg prices plus the rainy weather on the Pacific Coast appears responsible for the decreased receipts. Prices on all fowl moved upward and to the ceiling.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Total receipts of cattle on the four western livestock markets during the week were 25,980. The twelve principal markets closed the week with 287,800 head, less than 1 percent increase above the same period for last week and that for the same period a year ago. Sales on the western markets were less active during this past week than during the previous week. Dairy cows reflected a drop of approximately 25 cents while other classes of livestock remained approximately the same as on Friday of last week with top prices for grass steers ranging from $13.50 to $13.75. Prices on good vealers ranged $13.50 to $14.00.

Hogs: Total receipts of hogs on the four western livestock markets on the past week were 13,100 head, and on the twelve principal markets 330,600 head, a 1 1/2 percent increase above receipts for the previous week and 46 percent less than the receipts for the same period one year ago. Prices of hogs were generally down as much as 75 cents, however the range was between 25 cents and $1.00. Choice 200 to 240 pound barrows and gilts were $14.75 to ceiling. The top range on good to choice sows was $11.75 to $14.75 at the close of the week.

Sheep: Sheep receipts on the four western markets totaled 25,100 head for the past week and on the twelve principal markets 301,100 head, a 58 percent drop from receipts of the previous week and, a 20 percent drop from receipts of the same period one year ago.

While fat lambs were relatively scarce on most of the markets and top prices ranged from $14.00 to $14.25, prices dropped 25 cents in the North West and were quoted mostly at $12.50 at the close of the week.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: The planting of winter wheat is now practically completed, but weather conditions in some sections have prevented proper germination. In the Kansas wheat belt, wheat has made sufficient progress that it is now being pastured. In the Pacific Northwest some sections have remained so dry that planting has not progressed satisfactorily.

Cash wheat in the Pacific Northwest was mostly unchanged at the close of the week although a 1 cent increase was recorded for ordinary Soft White and Hard Red winter wheat, with prices at $1.50 per bushel for No.1 grade in bulk and, a 15-day shipment privelege for coast delivery.

Estimates indicate that the 1944-45 supplies of grains now appear to be approximately 2 percent under for those for the 1943-44 season, and that this season's increase in the production of wheat, corn and oats have been offset by decreases in other grains, particularly rye and barley.

Hops: October 1, 1944 estimates on the production of hops in California, Oregon and Washington indicate that 47,250,000 pounds will be produced in 1944 making the third largest crop of hops recorded since 1916. The 10-year average from 1933-42 inclusive is 39,024,000 pounds. Prices at the close of the week continued to hold at ceiling.

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